

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

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BLOOMFIELD, N. J., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1892.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

THE BELL TOWER MATTER.

THE TOWN COMMITTEE ORDER THE STRIKING APPARATUS REMOVED.

The Bell Will Not be Used Hencesforth to Sound Alarms of Fire.

It has been charged that the members of Essex Hook and Ladder Company would compel the Township Committee to assume the responsibility for any damage resulting from the fall of the bell tower or that they would put the people of the town to great expense by refusing the public the use of the tower as a storage place for the batteries that supply the electricity for the operation of the fire-alarm system compelling the town to seek other quarters for locating the battery.

Committeeman G. Lee Stout has always contended that the members of the Truck Company were not actuated by any spirit of animus in the controversy over the bell tower. He has always been in sympathy with the motive of the firemen in endeavoring to relieve themselves of a grave responsibility. He was willing that the town should accept the responsibility providing the firemen could show that it was legally right for the Committee to do so in the absence of any legal evidence. Mr. Stout has always expressed a readiness to vote any amount necessary for strengthening the tower and to have the work done under the supervision of a competent architect. He believed that, whatever action the firemen might take, great care would be taken not to interfere too much with the fire-alarm system, and that while the heavy weights and the striker might be ordered from the tower the batteries would not be disturbed. Oral and printed statements emanating from members of the Truck Company led to such conclusions.

Other members of the Committee differed with Mr. Stout and took an opposite view of the matter, and smiled at the idea of the firemen stopping to consider any serious effects that might result from the interruption of the fire-alarm system. They took the ground that everything connected with the alarm system would be ordered from the tower.

A letter from the Truck Company read at the Committee meeting on Monday proved that Mr. Stout was right in his conjectures. The letter simply requested that the striking apparatus be removed from the bell tower. This striking apparatus, with its heavy weights, constitutes one of the chief elements of danger in the tower.

Mr. Stout moved that the request be complied with as set forth in the letter.

Mr. Gilbert suggested that the Committee wait and find out what the firemen meant.

Mr. Stout replied that it was very distinctly set forth in the letter what they meant. "If the desire to alleviate the danger is not their only motive, and if there is a spirit of animus behind the whole matter," said Mr. Stout, "it will show itself when we comply with this letter. They will send in another letter kicking us out entirely."

Mr. Rayner was under the impression that it was the intention of the firemen to order out the whole system.

Mr. Stout did not think so; he could not attribute motives of spite or revenge to the honorable gentlemen who composed the Truck Company.

Mr. Rayner, as Chairman of the Fire Committee, was directed to have the striking apparatus removed from the tower and stored away. He was also directed to consult with the Gamewell Alarm Company about exchanging the all-striking apparatus for one that will be attached to a steam whistle. This is perhaps the end of the great controversy over the bell tower, and it is fortunate that it has terminated without engendering any hard feelings between the members of the Committee and the Truck Company. There are those who still maintain that the company will not let the matter drop until all the township property is removed from the tower. Such a course is not likely, for the letter sent to the Committee was the result of a meeting of the trustees of the company held on Friday night and submitted for ratification to a special meeting of the whole company on Saturday night. So it is evidently the work of labor and careful deliberation.

The bell will be retired. What the company will do with it is a matter of conjecture. One rumor is that they will sell it for old metal and use the money to furnish their rooms, putting in a bath room and other club-house conveniences. Frank G. Tower, who perhaps more correctly voices the true sentiment of the company, stated in his remarks before the Town Committee that the bell would undoubtedly be preserved as a monument of the Volunteer Fire Department of Bloomfield.

Geo. M. Wood has for sale Grandmother's Compound Herb Tea for coughs, colds, constipation and liver troubles. Try it. 25cts.—Advt.

Something New on an Old Corner.

We had the pleasure this week of meeting our new hotel proprietor, Major E. F. Damon, formerly of the Tioga House, Waverly, New York. The Major has leased the new Hotel Essex, and will open the same on the second of January to the public. In speaking of the old corner we mean the old Archdeacon corner, where for years it was known as the famous road house of the county. On its site now stands one of the most perfectly appointed hotels in the State. Talent, money and sound business judgment has not been spared in its construction, and to-day Bloomfield citizens may well feel proud of Hotel Essex. Through the kindness of Mr. Damon we made a close inspection of the premises, and as we entered the hotel on the wide portico shay side or drive way, a pleasant surprise was awaiting us; for a finer or more perfectly appointed front hall it has not been our pleasure to look upon; the spacious width and magnificence of the stairs leading to the music room, and on to the elegant communicating parlors was simply dazzling, and as the eye caught the brilliancy of the beautiful chandeliers, magnificent carpets, and upholstered furniture, we could hardly realize that we were in Bloomfield. Still, as the eye wandered to the front windows we came to the conclusion that we were in Bloomfield and were proud of it. As we turned and again entered the spacious hall and passed on to the Bloomfield Avenue side, and as the doors were thrown open to the bedrooms, we were again surprised at the perfectly furnished sleeping apartments. Passing from here we inspected the bath-rooms, dining-room, butler's pantry, kitchen, heating apparatus, etc. And last, but not least, the bowling alley, billiard parlors, bar office, etc. Mr. Damon has spared no expense in furnishing the Essex, and our citizens may well be proud of our new hotel. And another addition to the hotel Essex and a wise conclusion on the part of Mr. Damon is in securing the able services of Mr. M. F. Estell, whose whole life has been spent in the business. Beside Mr. Estell is well known to the Bloomfield and travelling public. In conclusion we wish the Major success and trust to his good judgment in keeping a first class-house that our citizens will be proud of, and the old corner once more be classed as one of the leading hotels of Essex County.

Where Was the Officer?

A fight between two young men residing in that portion of the town known as the Five Points, and whose Christian names are John and James, occurred in a patch of woods in the rear of Hill Street last Sunday afternoon. The affray was a bloody one, and after the contestants had battered each other pretty badly they were separated by their admiring friends. The battle led to an argument on their respective merits, which resulted in a match being made for a fight to the finish between the two for \$100 a side and the championship of the Points. The affair was to take place Monday in a Belleville resort, but James failed to put in an appearance. The contest will come off later.

Said to be Built on a Street.

The freight depot of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad at Glenwood Avenue is said to be built on property that was surveyed and recorded as a street running from Glenwood to Washington Avenue. The street was never dedicated to the town, and the railroad company has been in possession of it for such a long time that it will perhaps be difficult to oust them. The street is needed now, as it would prove a great convenience. There is no connecting street between Washington and Glenwood Avenues between the Centre and Henry Street, and the latter is not a direct connection.

Masonic Officers Elected.

The annual communication of Bloomfield Lodge, No. 40, F. and A. M., was held on Tuesday evening, when the following officers were elected for the new year: W. M. Walter L. Tower; S. W. William H. Linder; J. W. Frederick Biddulph; Secretary, Charles Schleifer; Treasurer, N. Harvey Dodd; Representative to the Grand Lodge, William H. Van Giesen, M. D. After the election a supper was given the lodge by its retiring officers. An entertainment followed the feast. Professor Harry White greatly amused the audience by his marvelous feats in ventriloquism.

Divide the Election District.

The Montclair Township Committee has been petitioned to divide the election districts in that town in which over 600 votes were polled at the last election. The third district in this town ought to be divided, it is said, according to the laws governing elections.

Try Grandmother's Compound Herb Tea for coughs and colds, liver and stomach troubles. Your druggist has it. Put up by Kayler & Co., Arling-ton, N. J. Price 25cts.—Advt.

Glen Ridge Club.

A very enjoyable "home talent" entertainment was given at the Clubhouse on Wednesday evening, under the management of Mrs. F. P. Reed and other ladies. The first half of the show was a series of society characters and sketches, in which the leading parts were very creditably taken by a half-dozen or more of the ladies of Glen Ridge. The second part was given up to a spirited contest in the matter of "weather reform," consisting of tableaux representing summer and winter, followed by processions of devotees of the two seasons, and speeches in favor respectively of perpetual winter and summer by ex-Assemblyman E. P. Mitchell of North Nova Zembla, and Hon. H. M. Barrett of Ceylon, and finally a vote by the audience, in which winter had the best of it by a large majority. Refreshments and dancing wound up a very enjoyable evening. About one hundred persons were present. Next Friday evening there will be a children's dance, and on the second of January a dramatic entertainment by some of the ladies and gentlemen of the club.

Bowling Scores.

Two bowling contests have been arranged to take place at the Olympic on Monday, Christmas day, the 26th. In the morning at ten o'clock the Olympic Juniors will finish their series with the Montclair High School team. These teams have met twice before and have each won a game. The scores made were excellent, and in this contest some good bowling may be looked for. In the afternoon at three o'clock the Amateurs and Cyclers will meet again and decide the contest which they began two weeks ago. The games between these teams have aroused a great deal of interest from the fact that the teams are evenly matched and are bowling for a prize ball which has been offered by a committee of ladies. Each team now has a game to its credit, and this adds to the interest of the coming games. The following are the Olympic scores for the past week: Harmon Spear 207, Frederick H. Chase 207, N. H. Cadmus 202, C. Vogelius 187, Frank G. Tower 187, Fred. Cooper 184, Miss Maude Seymour 156, Miss Carrie Jones 144.

The Men's Guild.

The musical and literary entertainment given at the Guild House last Monday was an artistic as well as a financial success, sufficient profit being realized for the Christmas decoration of the church. Miss Weber, the reader, and Miss Bowen, the soprano soloist and whistler, received several well merited encores, as did Mr. John F. Dillon the popular humorist, and Mr. Harry White the ventriloquist, whose Mr. and Mrs. Maloney sketch was much enjoyed by the large audience. Mr. Charles Sachse's Newark orchestra of eight pieces also did some very good work under his able direction. Altogether it was a most pleasant affair and almost every member was encored. The Men's Guild it is hoped will soon be heard from again.

Death of F. W. Capen.

Frederick W. Capen, who has been a resident of this place for the past eighteen years, died at his home on Franklin Street last Monday morning with cancer of the stomach. Deceased was sixty-nine years of age. Mr. Capen was engaged in the mining business. A widow and five grown-up sons survive him.

He was a member of the Glen Ridge Club. Funeral services were held at his late home on Thursday afternoon at two o'clock and were conducted by the Rev. George A. Paull, pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian Church. A quartette rendered the hymn "Rock of Ages." The sons of the deceased officiated as pall-bearers. Interment was made in the Bloomfield Cemetery.

Thieves at the American House.

Thieves broke into the kitchen of the American House at an early hour on Thursday morning and entering the dining-room stole two dozen teaspoons, one dozen knives and forks and three napkin rings. All the articles stolen were of solid silver. The rascals were also bent upon having a good time as they opened the ice box and ate a sirloin steak, two partridges, and a mince pie. The police were notified of the robbery. A dishonest cook, who was formerly in the employ of Mr. Courter, it is said, stole a large quantity of cigars and other articles from the place a short time ago, and is now in jail awaiting trial upon the charge.

German Y. M. C. A.

A Young Men's Christian Association has been organized in the German Presbyterian Church. Meetings will be held on Thursday of each week. These officers have been elected: President, Theodore Mix; Vice-president, Charles L. Seibert; Secretary, Jacob S. Bollesbach; Treasurer, Herman Blaschke; Librarian, George Martini.

Handsome calendars given away at Shoenthal's.—Advt.

THE SEWER MUDDLE.

DID DR. RICHARDS PLAY DOUBLE IN THIS MATTER?

That is What Many Charge Him With—The Facts in the Case.

Did Dr. Harry E. Richards perform a legal acrobatic feat, or are the minds of the present members of the Town Committee who were in last year's Board so beggared that they cannot give an intelligent explanation of how they came to make a contract with Orange in pursuance of a resolution instead of by an ordinance? Dr. Richards was Town Counsel at the time the contract was made, and he is now counsel for the bank, and it was his advice to the bank that prompted the procuring of an opinion from ex-Chancellor Runyon which declared the resolution illegal.

Did Dr. Richards as counsel for the town advise making a contract by resolution, and then as counsel for the bank turn around and say he had deliberately advised the Committee wrongly?

Dr. Richards has long been a target for shuklers. Men six feet tall have said some very hard things about him when he was not around. If any of the new members of the present Committee wish to make themselves popular with the "boys" they can do so by firing a sarcastic shot at the Doctor. The "boys" will all laugh and the Doctor will not care. He will coolly present his little bill and it will be paid every time.

There is one circumstance that counts against the Doctor and leads even some conservative people to believe that he turned a legal handspring for a purpose. The town has been remarkably quiet for some time; even the Presidential election hardly rippled the surface. Some people cannot associate peace and quietness with the Doctor. They naturally assume that he threw a double somersault for the purpose of "stirring things up." It may be that they are mistaken this time. For the edification of the "boys" and others who are insinuating that the Doctor has played double, the facts should be brought out. The minutes of the Township Committee ought to show them.

Committeeman Martin Hummel stated at the meeting on Monday that Joseph D. Gallagher advised the procedure by resolution, and that Mr. Gallagher said that of the two methods open to the Committee, either by ordinance or by resolution, the latter was preferable. If Mr. Gallagher said this in the official capacity of legal adviser then Dr. Richards is responsible. There is an impression, however, that the only question on which Mr. Gallagher was called upon for advice was whether the town had a right to make a contract. What Mr. Gallagher said beyond that was in the course of general conversation, and not as legal advisor. He was not called on to advise as to the method to be pursued. Whatever superfluous talk he indulged in at the time was not paid for, and Mr. Gallagher is too good a lawyer to give away what Montclair and Orange was paying such lawyers as ex-Judge Stevens and John W. Taylor \$500 for.

It is very doubtful whether Dr. Richards was asked for an opinion on the question of how to proceed in making the contract with Orange. Ex-Judge Stevens furnished the copy of a resolution and contract, which was adopted by the Committee independent of the opinions of their own counsel.

Committeeman Halfpenny was aware of the Town Counsel's attitude in regard to the sewer contract, and when during the proceedings pending at the time Mr. Halfpenny offered a motion to lay the matter on the table, he was accused of trying to defeat the whole project and prevent a contract being made. Mr. Halfpenny voted against making the contract.

The sewer boomers in the Committee were also suspicious of Dr. Richards, and asked for his advice only on the single question as to whether the town had a right to make the contract.

In the Bloomfield *Independent* of the issue of November 7, 1891, the Sewer Committee, is quoted as saying that they had received a copy of a contract from the City Clerk of Orange which was identical with that entered into by Montclair with Orange, and that is the contract that was adopted.

In the same paper of the issue of November 14 it is stated that "the resolution passed by the Township Committee directing the Sewer Committee to execute a contract on the part of Bloomfield with the city of Orange was returned to the Committee by the advice of

Frederick W. Stevens, with the request that the Committee pass a new resolution directing the Town Committee to execute a contract." Mr. Stevens submitted a copy of the resolution desired.

If it should turn out that ex-Chancellor Runyon is wrong in his opinion there will be no advantage gained in fixing the responsibility on the ex-Town Counsel. It will then be the proper thing to

loudly proclaim that the ex-Counsel was a nonentity and his advice was not needed.

Grave doubts have arisen as to whether ex-Chancellor Runyon is right in his opinion. The present Town Counsel, Halsey M. Barrett, implies that he is not. Mr. Barrett says that he is still of the opinion that the procedure by resolution is legal. Mr. Barrett also stated that ex-Judge Stevens maintains that the course pursued by the Committee was perfectly legal.

The majority of the members of the Town Committee, notwithstanding, are inclined to entirely disregard the ex-Chancellor's opinion, and it has been decided to make an effort to have a joint meeting of the Sewer Committees of Orange, Montclair and this town, together with the counsels, to discuss the matter and decide on a plan of action.

Official notice has been given to the Orange Committee of the inability to meet the payments called for by the terms of the contract on account of the legal difficulties that have arisen. The questions involved in the sewer controversy are deemed important by lawyers and financiers. To the average citizen it appears to be principally a question of technicalities. The public is no doubt indifferent as to whether the sewer contract was made in pursuance of resolution or by ordinance. Of course a published ordinance would serve as notice to the tax-paying public that the Committee was about to undertake a work involving a large expenditure of money, and they would have an opportunity to protest, whereas a resolution not requiring publication could be quietly slipped through and the public know nothing of it until they were called on to pay the bill. But to those who are trying to convict Dr. Richards of indulging in legal gymnastics the question of ordinance or resolution is merely secondary.

What is Dr. Richards doing to meet this activity of his foes? Why does he not make a defense? Is he preparing the material and laying the fuse for another earthquake, or is he quietly pursuing some work on philosophy?

Mrs. Schneider's Pension.

Samuel G. Hayter appeared before the Town Committee on Monday and requested them to attach their signatures to the application of Mrs. Ann Schneider for admission to the Home for Soldiers' Widows.

Mrs. Schneider is the widow of war veteran and receives a pension of \$8 per month. She formerly boarded with Thomas P. Day. She met with a serious accident last summer, and has been in the Mountainside Hospital a long while at the expense of the town. Mrs. Schneider made her application for a pension in 1890. It was not granted until over a year later, when it is said she received the full amount from the date of her application. Poormaster Voorhees asked Mr. Day for the amount of the back pension, and says Mr. Day told him there was none. Mrs. Amzi Dodd, Mr. Voorhees says, also spoke to Mr. Day about this back pension. Mr. Day, it is said, told Mrs. Dodd that it did not amount to much. Mr. Voorhees made inquiry at the Pension Office, and says that he was informed that the amount was \$134. Mr. Voorhees has requested Town Counsel Barrett to compel Mr. Day to render an accounting.

The New Fire Whistle.

Chief Johnson has put the whistle on the paper mill in commission and it will be blown hereafter for all fires, sounding box numbers four times each. The nine o'clock signal will be indicated by one long blow on the whistle of ten seconds' duration. The only special call to be blown will be "4-4-4" for Excelsior Hose Company and "7-7-7" for the relief call. In case of fire at the paper mill the whistle will be tied down and allowed to blow five minutes. No other alarm or calls will be blown on this whistle.

Bloomfield's Turners.

At a meeting of the recently organized Bloomfield Turn Verein, held at Metz's Hall on Tuesday night, officers for the coming year were elected as follows: Speaker, William C. Pidert; Vice-Speaker, Otto C. Beyer; Secretary, Christian Jaeger; Financial Secretary, William J. Ave; Treasurer, Philip Batzel; First Instructor, Paul Herold; Second Instructor, Philip Batzel; Custodian, Henry G. Ave; Assistant Custodian, John Keller. The society promises to be a very important one.

Old Fellows Elect Officers.

The annual meeting of Olive Branch Lodge, I. O. O. F., was held on Monday night. William McClane was elected Noble Grand; E. Kastenhuber, Vice-Grand; E. Yearance, Recording Secretary; William Hoffman, Financial Secretary; Charles M. Lockwood, Treasurer.

Dorfinger's American Cut Glass is shown in every requisite for the table and in beautiful pieces for Wedding and Holiday Gifts. Genuine pieces have trade-mark label.

Happy and content is a home with "The Rochester," a lamp with the light of the morning. Call on Rochester Lamp Co. of Park Place, N. Y.

Shoenthal is sole agent for W. L. Douglas's shoes.—Advt.

Spoiled the Scene.

William G. Beach, who plays the leading part of Perry Buscon in "Blue Jeans," which plays at Miner's Theatre Christmas week, has sent in his resignation under rather peculiar circumstances. It will be remembered by those who have witnessed the